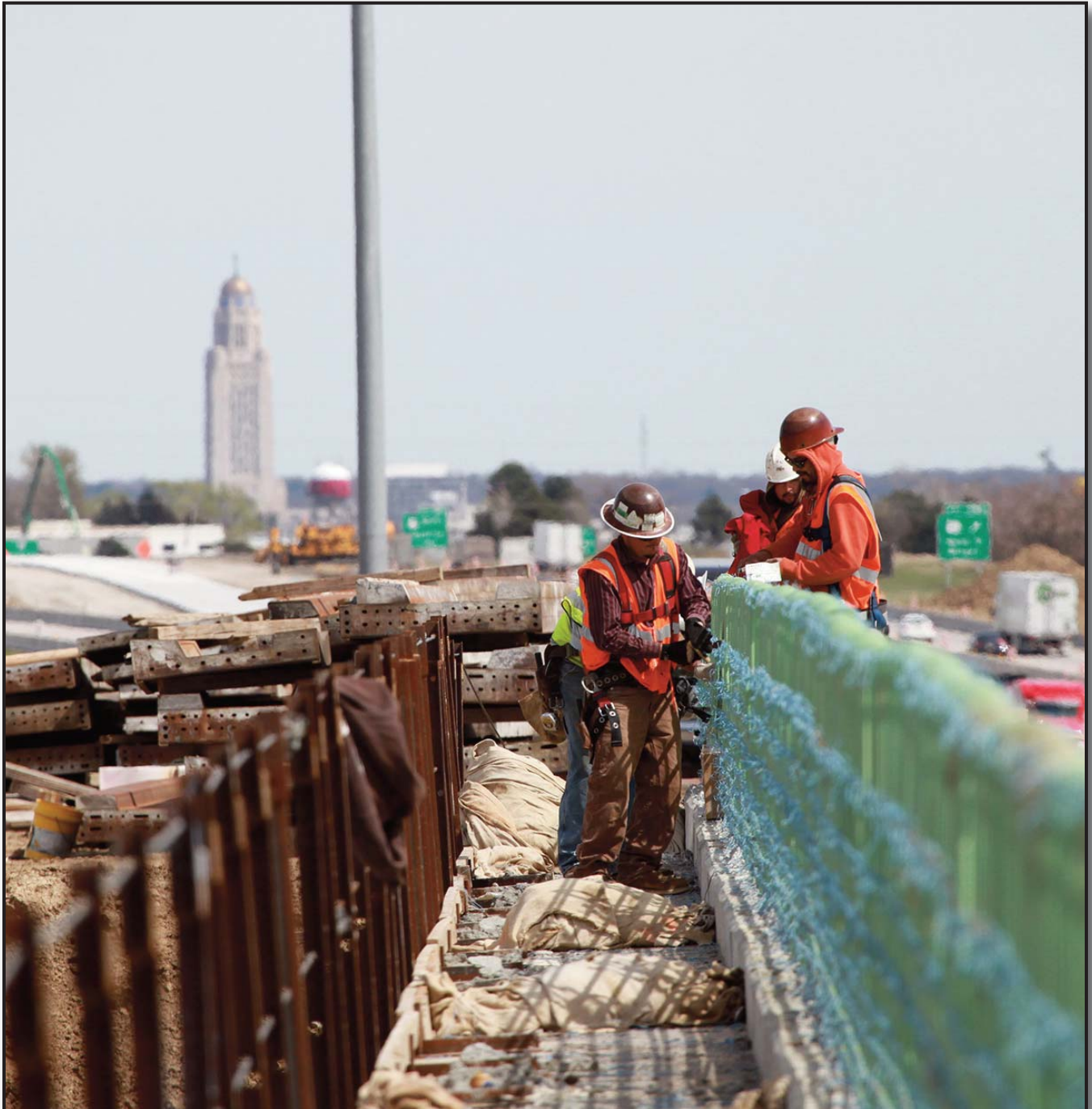


the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

April/May 2015



A Capitol View...

Construction workers tie rebar for a concrete barrier on the new overpass at I-80/NW 48th Street in Lincoln, part of the I-80 six-lane expansion.

Photo by Clint Mangan

the Roadrunner

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Nebraska Department of Roads

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Governor Pete Ricketts

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The information in this newsletter is contributed
by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



Frickey Named Project Manager of the Year

Russ Frickey, of Bridgeport, was honored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) as Nebraska Department of Roads' (NDOR) Project Manager of the Year. Frickey received a traveling trophy and plaque at the Project Managers' Conference at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney on March 3.

Frickey's entire career has been at the Bridgeport Construction Office, beginning in 1988 as an Engineering Aide. Other positions held included Engineering Aide Senior, Engineering Associate II, Highway Construction Tech III, Highway Construction Tech IV/District 5 Final Reviewer and Highway Construction Tech IV/Supervisor. On February 1, 2001, Frickey was promoted to Project Manager and has remained in that position for the past 14 years.

The award is presented annually by the AGC to an NDOR project manager who has upheld the standards of conducting business within the highway construction industry with the highest level of ethics and integrity. The trophy is called the Lyle Leader Memorial Award in tribute to Mr. Leader, who was a project manager at NDOR for 34 years. He was active in the District 3 Hartington office at the time of his death in August 1991 and was highly respected by his peers within the department and by the contractor members of AGC.

All contractor members submitted a nomination for this award and the nominees were voted upon by the members of the AGC. For the year 2014, Frickey received the high honor. ♦



Photo by Jay Bailey

Pictured, l to r: Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director; Tyler Chicoine, President, Nebraska Chapter AGC; Russ Frickey, 2014 Project Manager of the Year; and Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer.

Signature Award Goes to Lane Frerichs

Lane Frerichs, Superintendent for Werner Construction Co., Hastings, Nebraska, received the 2014 Signature Award for excellent work on Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) projects. He was honored at ceremonies during the 2014 Project Managers' Conference March 3-4 in Kearney.

Drew Parks, District 5 Construction Engineer, presented the award to Frerichs, commenting, "Lane's work ethic and leadership during the Oshkosh-Lewellen project were exceptional. The project presented many challenges with an excellent result. This was mainly due to the work of Lane."

He highlighted many qualities that made Lane deserving of this award, including leadership, communication, problem-solving, scheduling and organizational skills, along with concern for safety and overall attitude.

District 5 Engineer Doug Hoevet asked Russ Frickey, Project Manager in District 5, Bridgeport, to detail Lane's contributions. In his nomination form for Lane, Frickey noted that during construction on the Oshkosh-Lewellen project, Lane coordinated the subcontractors and a couple of other crew from his own company, using a hands-on approach as supervisor, benefiting both Werner and NDOR. This was especially evident during a major issue involving failure with the foamed asphalt process when Lane was always there to keep the project safe with his ideas and great management practices.

Frickey noted, "Due to Lane's excellent communication and vision skills, we were able to fix a major problem and proceed to keep the project not only safe, but on schedule.



Photo by Jay Bailey, NDOR

Pictured, l to r: Claude Oie, NDOR Construction Engineer; Lane Frerichs, recipient of the 2014 Signature Award; and Katie Wilson, Nebraska Chapter AGC Executive Director.

His attitude of 'Don't worry about it. We will take care of it' was not just lip service, but production. I never had to doubt Lane, as he always followed through with promises he made."

Another quality that stood out was Lane's ability to anticipate issues that could delay the work of others if not addressed. Frickey observed that he always had his personnel preparing roadway, bridge widening, urban sections as well as subgrade prep well in advance of the paving crew to keep any delays to a minimum. He watched the weather closely with no material or time wasted as a result of many afternoon rain storms.

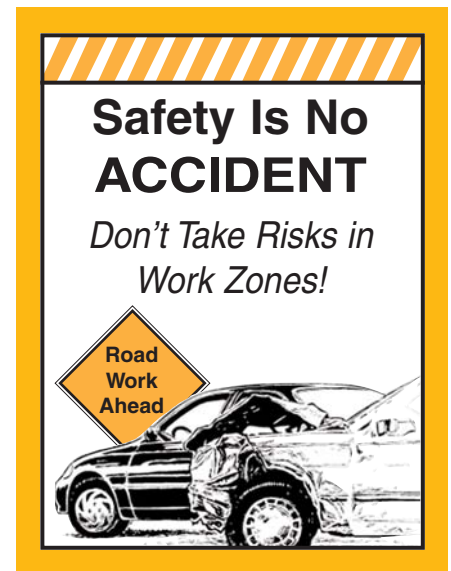
Regarding safety, Frickey noted, "Lane was super at taking care of traffic safety and flow which kept my phone from ringing with complaints. He worked well with all NDOR personnel by always keeping them informed. Safety has always been one of my top concerns. Lane has the same priority and it showed by his example. He took care of safety issues without having to be prompted. Lane leads by example and it shows with his work crew. They all were safety conscious and were all headed to one goal: Make sure we all

go home to our families at night.

Frickey concluded his nomination by noting, "Due to Lane's outstanding work ethic and leadership, District 5 was blessed with an excellent final product. I can only hope that I have the honor of working with Lane in the future."

The Signature Award is given by NDOR District Construction Engineers to individuals in the contracting industry possessing certain characteristics, including excellence in leadership, good communication, problem solving,

organization, attitude, safety, and achieving above and beyond standard management practices. In addition to receiving a trophy, plaque and having their names added to a permanent plaque at the NDOR Central Headquarters, a \$500 scholarship is given in the recipient's name to a University of Nebraska student majoring in construction engineering or construction management. ♦



Paving Awards Presented in Kearney

Project Managers and Construction Technicians were honored with awards for both concrete and asphalt pavements at the annual Project Managers' Conference held March 3-5 in Kearney. The awards recognized their work on Nebraska highways during 2014.

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) sponsors the awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement construction. Awards of excellence for highway construction projects using concrete pavement are sponsored by the NDOR and the Nebraska Concrete Paving Association (NCPA).

Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

The award for excellence in **Interstate Highways and Expressways** was presented to Rick Fisher and Mike Fox of District 2 in Omaha, Project Managers for **US-75, Plattsmouth-Bellevue and Platte River & South projects**. This award was presented for paving work that was done as part of the US-75 corridor from Omaha to Nebraska City. The major paving items included 9-inch and 10-inch doweled concrete pavement and 7-inch and 10-inch plain-jointed concrete pavement, in addition to various other classes of Portland Cement Concrete surfacing. Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha, Nebraska, the prime contractor, placed the concrete pavement. HDR Engineering, Inc. of Omaha designed the project under the oversight of Wahed Hassani, NDOR Consultant Coordinator. The construction inspection team included Construction Technicians Pat Eisenmenger, Kyle Parsons, Christine Hansen and Mike Handzlik, who received Certificates of Merit for their

inspection duties at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop.

Receiving the award for the **Municipal Streets** category was Mike Habegger of the District 1 office in Tecumseh for **US-136, In Auburn**. The project was built by Hawkins Construction Company of Omaha, Nebraska, and consisted of repaving 15-plus blocks in Auburn. It included about 44,000 square yards of both subgrade preparation and foundation course. This project also included 39,000 square yards of 9-inch doweled concrete pavement and 5,000 square yards of 9-inch plain-jointed concrete pavement. Most of this had a 6-inch integral curb. There were about 7,000 square yards of permanent pavement surfacing and 5,600 square yards of temporary pavement surfacing. The

project was designed by Roger Niemann, Highway Designer III in NDOR's Roadway Design Division. Construction Technicians Troy Little, Tim McCoy and Jeff Fossenbarger were recognized with Certificates of Merit for their inspection duties on this project at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop.

There was a tie in the **Secondary State Highways and County Roads** category. Project Manager Gary Brinker of District 6 in North Platte received the award for **US-30, Cozad-Lexington**. This project was designed by Korey Donahoo in the NDOR Roadway Design Division. The project was built by Paulsen, Inc. of Cozad, Nebraska, and consisted of placing an unbonded concrete

(see **Awards** on next page)



Rick Fisher



Mike Fox



Mike Habegger



Gary Brinker



Ryan Hobelman



Rick Kwiatkowski



Roger Preble



Russ Frickey



Jerry Woodgate



Dave Anderson



Toby Thomsen

Awards (cont'd. from page 4)

overlay on 12.5 miles of US-30 and on 1.5 miles of Link 24A. It included cold-milling 5 inches of the existing asphalt from the existing concrete/asphalt composite pavement. Following the milling, numerous full-depth concrete pavement repairs were made to the existing underlying Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (PCCP). Nearly 200,000 square yards of 5-inch concrete pavement were placed atop an asphaltic concrete layer that covered the existing PCCP. This asphalt layer consisted of the remaining asphalt that was left after the cold milling operation, or newly placed asphalt – placed when the existing asphalt was completely removed. Construction Technicians Paul Gibbs and Michael Beisner were recognized at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop with Certificates of Merit for their inspection duties on this project.

Project Manager Ryan Hobelman of District 1 in Lincoln received the award for **US-75, Union South**. This project was designed by Carlos Leija in the Roadway Design Division. The project was built by Cedar Valley Paving, LLC and Subsidiary of Waterloo, Nebraska, and consisted of repaving 15-plus blocks in Auburn. It included replacing 6-plus miles of an existing two-lane rural section of US-75, south of Union. The existing pavement was replaced with 100,000 square yards of 10-inch doweled concrete pavement atop 5 inches of foundation course, placed on subgrade stabilized with hydrated lime. The project also included 10-inch plain jointed concrete, concrete driveways and 5-foot surface shoulders. Construction Technicians Harvey Hemphrey, Bill Swanson, Craig Branch, Jason Loos, Mike Meyer and Seth Luse were recognized with Certificates of Merit at the January NCPA Concrete Paving Workshop for their inspection duties on this project.

Honored in the **Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation** category was Project Manager Rick Kwiatkowski of

District 4 in St. Paul for his management of **N-92, Platte River – US-81**. The project was designed by the Pavement Design Section of NDOR's Materials and Research Division. The project was built by Chester Bross Construction Company of Hannibal, Missouri, and consisted of making 80 cubic yards of Class A full depth concrete pavement repairs, 454 cubic yards of Class B, full depth repairs, and 929 cubic yards of Class C, full depth repairs. It also included adding 2 feet to the existing 12-foot-wide lanes by tying to them an 8-inch-thick segment of PCCP. The resulting 28-foot-top concrete pavement roadway was fully diamond-ground as the final step in the rehabilitation process. Inspections Certificates of Merit were presented to Lynette Kowalski, Peggy Jackson and Rodney Wilson at the January NCPA Workshop.

Pavement smoothness, quality control, innovation, complexity, appearance, management and safety of the project were considered in the selection of the award winning concrete pavement projects.

Asphaltic Concrete Pavement Quality Awards

Seven projects received awards for excellence in asphaltic concrete pavement, including an award given to the smoothest nominated project. Nominated projects were judged by a panel who rated each project based on smoothness, quality control, complexity, innovation, general appearance, contractor management and safety.

Various Locations Around Lincoln were recognized as the **Best Single Lift Project**. Roger Preble of District 1 in Lincoln (now retired) received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. These projects utilized the department's new thin-lift asphalt maintenance strategy using Asphaltic Concrete Type SLX. This strategy included a Class 3 cold milling to remove a minimal amount of materials, from about 1/2 to 1 inch in depth, depending on the roadway. This cold milling is intended to provide a textured surface over the

entire roadway to promote the adhesion of the thin (3/4- to 1-inch thick) single layer of SLX-type asphaltic concrete. Dustrol, Inc. of Lincoln, Nebraska, did the cold milling operations and Pavers, Inc. of Salina, Kansas, placed the SLX. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Mike Fitl, Doug Hohensee, James Smith and Garret Schram for their inspection duties.

N-92/US-26, Oshkosh-Lewellen, was recognized as the **Best Project Using a Leveling Course**. Russ Frickey of District 5 in Bridgeport received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager.

This project extended east 13 miles from Oshkosh to Lewellen, and utilized several strategies, including the use of a 1-inch leveling course. The project was constructed by Werner Construction, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska, who placed 47,000 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR and 13,000 tons of SPS. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Tony Armer, Tim Stevens, Rick Schmunk, Scott Burry and Steve Roebuck for their part in performing inspection activities.

In North Loup and South was recognized as the **Best Project Utilizing Two or More Lifts**. Jerry Woodgate of District 4 in Grand Island received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This 10-mile project extended from North Loup to the Greeley/Howard County Line. It consisted of concrete repair, a 10-inch fly ash stabilized bituminous overlay with four inches of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR. Vontz Paving, Inc., of Hastings, Nebraska, placed 36,000 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Peggy Jackson, Tim Laws, Matt Retzlaff, Curtis Probasco and Dustin Grim for their inspection and testing roles.

(see **Awards** on next page)

Awards (cont'd. from page 5)

Belgrade North and East was recognized in the **Best Projects Utilizing Full Depth Construction, Reclamation, or Fractured Slab Overlay** category, with Rick Kwiatkowski of District 4 in St. Paul receiving an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This 12.5-mile project extended along N-52, from Cedar Rapids, through Belgrade, eastward to the junction of N-14. The project extended from this junction along N-14 to the north for 3 miles. This project utilized cement stabilized bituminous recycling strategy that was covered by Asphaltic Concrete Type SPR. Werner Construction, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska, performed the recycling and placed the asphaltic concrete. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians John Graff, Rodney Wilson and Lynette Kowalski for their part as inspectors on the project.

US-30, In Columbus was recognized in the **Projects with over 1,000 Patches** category, with Dave Anderson of District 3 in Columbus receiving an Award of Merit for his

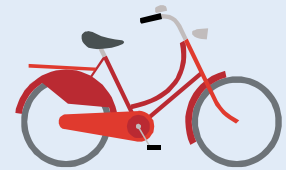
role as Project Manager. This 3.5-mile project extended along US-81 from the Platte River north, past the south junction of US-30 and US-81, into Columbus – to the north junction of US-30 and US-81. From there it extended east along US-30 to the east edge of Columbus. Iowa Erosion Control, Inc. of Victor, Iowa, was the prime contractor, and did the extensive concrete pavement rehabilitation work. Constructors, Inc. of Lincoln, Nebraska, followed this work with placement of 2.5 to 3 inches of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPH on this project. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Tom Hyland, Duston Grim, William Studnicka and Gary Wittwer for their roles as inspectors.

I-80, Hershey East was recognized as the **Best Interstate Asphalt Project**, with Gary Brinker of District 6 in North Platte receiving an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. Paulsen, Inc. of Cozad, Nebraska, was recognized as the prime contractor. This 6.8-mile project along I-80 extended from the Hershey Interchange eastward, and included placing 11,900 tons of Asphaltic

Concrete Type LC, covering that with 43,300 tons of Asphaltic Concrete Type SPH and placing 20,000 tons of SPS on the shoulders. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Paul Gibbs, Michael Beisner, Lisa Stadler, Dave Clouatre and Mason Watson for their inspection duties.

N-2, Mullen East and West was recognized with the **Smoothest Pavement Award**. Toby Thomsen of District 6 in North Platte received an Award of Merit for his role as Project Manager. This 13.2-mile project along N-2 extended from 10 miles east to 3 miles west of Mullen. Vontz Paving, Inc. of Hastings, Nebraska completed a 4-inch mill on the mainline and a 2-inch mill-and-fill on the shoulders, installing 38,600 tons of Asphaltic Concrete type SPR and 13,700 tons of Asphaltic Concrete type SPS. This project earned an overall smoothness incentive adjustment of 106.931% out of a possible 107%. Certificates of Merit were presented at the February Asphalt Conference to Construction Technicians Troy Pedersen, Jeff Bruns, Ray Berry and Kurt Snider for inspection activities. ♦

Lincoln and Omaha Receive Air Quality Funding for Bike Sharing



A \$1.5 million Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant administered through the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) will be used to implement and expand bike sharing programs in Lincoln and Omaha.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) requested \$900,000 to construct an additional 40 bike sharing stations, expanding the existing MAPA's Heartland B-cycle station network. In Omaha, rides have increased from 2,000 in the program's first year in 2011 to 6,700 last year.

Lincoln will receive \$600,000 in grant funding to implement a similar program in the downtown area.

The grant will cover 80% of the cost of the planned

programs. The cities will need to raise the remaining 20% of the cost.

The funding will be for obligation in federal fiscal year 2016. The projects will be coordinated through the NDOR with the Nebraska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). NDOR recognizes the advantages and associated benefits to air quality, livability and improved health.

Bike share programs are popular in major metropolitan areas for both tourists and commuters as an alternative to cars and public transit. Those interested in using the bike sharing program must buy a daily, monthly or annual pass. They can check out a bike from any station, ride it and return it to any station.

Nebraska Celebrates 25 Years of Adopt-a-Highway

During the month of April, the Nebraska Department of Roads is celebrating 25 years of "Adopt-a-Highway." This internationally-acclaimed litter-pickup program got its start in Tyler, Texas in 1985; other states soon followed. Nebraska implemented its Adopt-a-Highway Program in April of 1990.

On April 8, Governor Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation naming April as "Adopt-a-Highway Volunteer

Appreciation Month" in Nebraska, during a ceremony at the State Capitol. In addition, the month of April is designated as the "Great Nebraska Trash-Off" – a time for all groups to conduct spring cleaning in their areas.

Whether big and bulky or small and smelly, all kinds of items litter their way onto the roadsides, creating an eyesore. According to Denise Wallman, NDOR's Adopt-a-Highway Program Manager, there are close to 900 Adopt-a-Highway groups across the state, with an estimated 18,000 volunteers, who work together to tackle this problem. As part of their group's agreement, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers pick up litter on their adopted segment of highway twice a year for two years. An estimated 3,500 miles of highway are currently adopted.

Volunteers are from local church, civil and school groups, as well as 4-H clubs, individuals, businesses and families. Wallman noted, "All volunteers share a spirit of pride in their state. Of these nearly 900 groups, 35 have been with the program the entire 25 years. We are fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers who care and perform a valuable service to keep our roadsides clean and litter-free."

Go to www.roads.nebraska.gov/operations/maintenance/adopt-hiway/docs/Memo-to-groups-about-25-yrs.pdf to view a list of the 35 Nebraska groups who have been part of Adopt-a-Highway for 25 years. For more information about the Adopt-a-Highway Program, go to www.roads.nebraska.gov/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm. ♦



Denise Wallman, NDOR's Adopt-a-Highway Program Manager, thanks volunteers for their efforts and dedication over the past 25 years as Governor Pete Ricketts proclaims April "Adopt-a-Highway Volunteer Appreciation Month."

Photo by Clint Mangen

Raising Work Zone Safety Awareness

The Nebraska Department of Roads, in cooperation with the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (the Foundation), join advocates nationwide to urge motorists to recognize and respect the moms and dads, sons and daughters, neighbors and friends who work on Nebraska's roadways. Work zone awareness is every day, all year long, and it is important to remember the benefits and risks inherent in the work conducted on America's roadways.

Hundreds of times each year, motorists distracted, speeding, or otherwise unable to control their vehicles stray into work zones, which are created according to engineered designs, with numerous and often innovative arrays of safety equipment, by personnel trained in the safe conduct of heavy highway

construction and maintenance work.

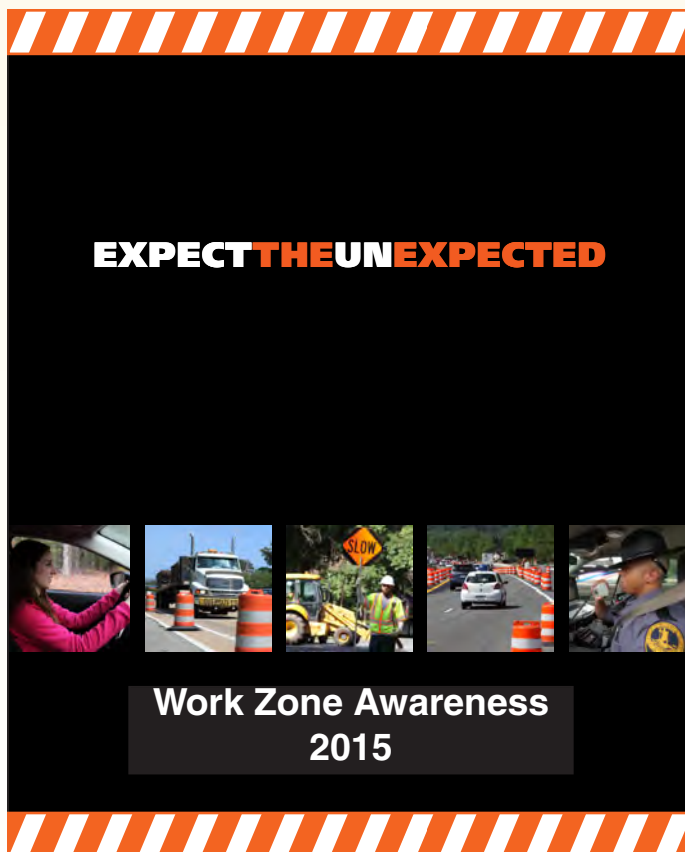
NDOR and the Foundation urge motorists, as they approach a highway work zone, to think first of the real people behind the lights and cones and barrels. Drivers are also encouraged to consider their own safety: More than 80 percent of those killed in road work zone crashes are motorists.

Work zones, while essential for maintenance, construction and operation of safe roads and bridges, can present a challenge for both road workers and vehicle drivers. "Highway workers have to trust that you will heed the signs, barricades, cones, and message boards that are their only protection," says national Foundation President Sue Reiss.

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation is an educational and

charitable organization affiliated with the American Traffic Safety Service Association (ATSSA), which joins other traffic safety advocates in moving "Toward Zero Deaths" on America's roadways. The Foundation sponsors the National Work Zone Memorial, provides scholarships for the dependents of roadway workers killed or permanently disabled in work zone crashes, and works to raise awareness of the need to protect and respect America's transportation workers.

For more information on work zone awareness, visit <http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/rca/wz/index.htm> or http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm, follow @USDOTFHWA on Twitter, or search trending topics #NWZAW and #safeworkzones. ♦



Tips for Driving in Work Zones

Driving safely in work zones, motorists can help to make sure everyone gets home safely.

- **Expect the Unexpected.** Things may change overnight. Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes closed, narrowed or shifted, and people may be working on or near the road.
- **Don't Speed.** Obey the posted speed limit at all times, even when workers are not present.
- **Don't Tailgate.** Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you and the construction workers and their equipment. Rear-end collisions account for 30% of work zone crashes.
- **Obey Road Crew Flaggers and Pay Attention to the Signs.** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone.
- **Stay Alert and Minimize Distractions.** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones and other electronic devices while approaching and driving in a work zone.
- **Keep Up With the Traffic Flow.** Do not slow down to "gawk" at road work.
- **Know Before You Go.** Check radio, TV and websites for traffic information and schedule enough time to drive safely. Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time.
- **Be Patient and Stay Calm.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.
- **Wear Your Seatbelt.** It is your best defense in a crash.
- **Remember – Dads, moms, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters work here!**

Governor Proclaims Nebraska Public Transit Week

By Kari Ruse

Rail & Public Transportation Division

On March 18, Governor Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation declaring the second week of April 2015 as Public Transit Week in the state of Nebraska. Public transportation managers from across the state traveled to Lincoln to attend the proclamation signing at the State Capitol. The event was organized and sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers (NATP).

The NDOR Transit Section is the pass-through entity for Federal Transit

Administration and state transportation funds that support public transit in the state. For thousands of Nebraskans in rural and urban areas, public transit is the single point of access to critical services such as medical care, shopping, education and employment. The first annual Nebraska Public Transit Week was an opportunity to recognize the transit professionals who provide this invaluable service to Nebraska's citizens.

Scheduled events during the week of April 6-10 included "Stuff the Bus" for

local charities, transit open houses, free rides for veterans, and a bus ticket scavenger hunt. To see pictures of events and to learn more about public transportation options, visit our website at www.nebraskatransit.com. ♦



Public transportation managers from across the state watch as Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts declares the second week of April 2015 as Public Transit Week in Nebraska. *Pictured, l to r: 1st row – Valerie Lefler, University of Nebraska Omaha; Curt Simon, Omaha Metro; Charles McGraw, Kearney RYDE Transit; Jonnie Kusek, Box Butte County; Governor Pete Ricketts; Scott Bartles, Saline County; Jeff Baker, Seward County; Tiffany Fougeron, NATP Executive Director; Jill Cammack, Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging; Coletta Clouse, Ogallala; Neva Ulmstead, Fullerton. 2nd row – Colleen Clayton, Central City; Carol Prince, Scottsbluff County; Denise Smith, Phelps County; Cindy Sanders, Guide Rock; Corinna Duckworth, Saunders County; Larry Vortherms, Creighton; Mike Davis, Lincoln Star Tran; Vicki Goeken, Norfolk; Beth Siegfried, McCook; Donetta Nye, Howard County.*

Correspondents Keep Pulse on News

Twenty-six individuals perform the role of tracking newsworthy activities of NDOR employees. They gather news for the *Roadrunner's All in the Family* section, including births, deaths, weddings, and graduations along with other newsworthy items. Please support your correspondents in their efforts to provide timely, accurate information.

Bridge	Lori Larson
Business Technology Support	Trish Sanchez
Communication	Linda Wilson
Construction	Agnes Masek
Controller	Kathy Pahre
Director's Office	Verneda Kelly
Human Resources	Diane Holthus
Legal	Twila Avey
Materials & Research	Barb Traudt
Operations	Liz Salisbury
Planning & Project Development	Sandra Knippelmeyer
	Linda Langdale

Program Management	Kendall Tonjes
Rail & Public Transportation	Charlie Bowlby
Right-of-Way	Jacki Schrotberger
Roadway Design	Sandra Schuelke
Traffic Engineering	Bobbi Olson
Highway Safety Section	Julie Slechta
District 1	Linda Piening
District 2	Connie Diblasi
District 3	Judy Schoenfeldt
District 4	Lauren Swiatoviak
District 5	Cindy Vergil
District 6	Karen Swedberg
District 7	Jan Collins
District 8	Erin Allen

New Transit Facility Welcomed in Saline County Area

By Kari Ruse

Rail & Public Transportation Division

Construction of a new transit facility for Saline County Area Transit (SCAT) was completed in March. The 6,272-square-foot building in Western includes storage for six transit vehicles, office space, a conference room and bus wash bay. The U.S. Department of Transportation provided 80 percent of the funding for construction of the facility.

SCAT has provided public transportation services since 1974. Currently, transportation is provided county-wide and within the city of Crete. Out-of-county destinations include Lincoln, Geneva, Beatrice, Fairbury, Omaha and Grand Island. In 2014, SCAT's six-vehicle fleet traveled 121,922 miles and provided 11,337 passenger trips.

SCAT's vehicles were previously parked outside on a gravel lot. Scott Bartles, SCAT Transit Manager, says, "The vehicles will now get more frequent and more



New transit facility building in the town of Western, in Saline County.

thorough cleaning because we aren't standing outside in the wind, cold, snow or rain while sweeping and vacuuming interiors or scrubbing seats and floors that freeze before having a chance to dry. Also, with our own wash bay we don't have to travel nearly 30 miles to find one tall enough for our bus to fit under. Similarly, it is much easier for vehicles to start in the morning when they haven't been sitting outside in sub-zero weather all night. While we are already conscientious about setting high standards for maintenance, I am confident that the lives of these vehicles will be prolonged by housing them in the new building."

NDOR's Jay Bailey Turns Focus on Retirement

By Linda Wilson
Communication Division

"Smile... say cheese!" Over the past 46 years as a photographer at NDOR, Jay Bailey has not only seen it all, but captured it on film and in digital format. If you are an NDOR employee, chances are good that he has taken your photograph - at least once. He has photographed new and retiring employees, award presentations, safety stand-down events, conferences, various contests, dignitaries and even a few celebrities along the way. He has also photographed the highways and byways in all eight NDOR districts across the state, including highway construction and maintenance projects and activities. In his words, "I've photographed everything there is and then some."

Jay's career at NDOR began in 1968 when he worked in the blueprint room. In 1972, he moved to the photo lab as a Photographic Technician. In 1982 he became the Staff Photographer. In those early years, the photography equipment was not as user-friendly and the work was more labor intensive. With advances in technology, he has watched equipment and procedures evolve over the years.

"When I started here at Roads, photographer Bill Leopold started me on a medium-format rangefinder camera. We also had 35 millimeter cameras, mainly Nikons, but we never used color. As time went on, we upgraded to newer models with more bells and whistles. Everything was processed by hand, including aerial film, until we switched to roller print



Jay Bailey retires after 46 years of service.

processors. We used reprographics for photographs of large maps and for construction plans. A large Robertson Horizontal copy camera was used for

(see **Focus** on next page)

Focus (cont'd. from page 10)

this purpose, as well as to make negatives for offset printing of various publications. Back then, it took a lot more time to get things done."

Digital Age

As the changes continued at a rapid pace, Jay noted, "We eventually went to color and started processing our own film and slides. Then we went totally digital in 2005. That's also the year we removed the large copy camera since that technology had become obsolete as the computer age gained momentum."

While it is hard to pinpoint an exact number of photos taken over the years, from the time he became Staff Photographer in 1982, Jay estimates he has taken about 200,000 photos with negatives and another 20,000 photos since 2005, after everything went digital.

Some of those photos included famous people. Jay noted that during the 1980s and early 1990s, he was asked to take photographs at the Statehood Dinner for the NEBRASKAland Foundation. This included presentation of the Foundation Award, which went to distinguished Nebraskans, including former President Gerald Ford, Bob Devaney, Tom Osborne, George Foreman, Marlin Perkins and Barney Oldfield. He has also photographed many dignitaries and government officials, including most of the governors and all 11 NDOR directors over the past 46 years.

Jay's favorite subjects to photograph included the state's scenic byways and wildflowers. "Every time I was out on

the road traveling to a district, I would look out my window and think, 'this would make a nice shot.'"

Of all the photos he has taken, Jay admits it is difficult to select a favorite, but after some thought, a couple come to mind. One was taken on a scenic byway. It shows a solitary car traveling along the rolling hills of Nebraska Highway 20 between Chadron and Valentine in the Sandhills, against the backdrop of a verdant green landscape, headed toward the horizon with a few wispy white clouds contrasting against an azure blue sky.

His other favorite photo shows a unique perspective. "It's a photo of the Platte River Bridge on I-80 at Mahoney State Park, taken from the State Patrol helicopter. I like the sunlight reflecting off the water and how the top of the doorway in the helicopter turned out black so it looks like the curvature of the earth in space. That's what I thought the first time I looked at it."

Challenges

Over the years, one of the Jay's greatest challenges involved taking pictures of large groups of people, for example, a group of 70 or 80 people in an NDOR division photo. Another challenge involved getting photos of snowplows on the roads after snowstorms. According to Jay, this is because "the snowplow operators are so efficient, they get the roads plowed before I could even get out there."

Some of the photos he has taken, while posing challenges, have also been

enjoyable. For example, Jay fondly recalls taking wildflower photos with Dick Gray, former NDOR Agronomist and Art Thompson, former NDOR Landscape Architect. "You had to go out early in the morning, because if you waited too late, the wind started blowing. I really enjoyed taking photos of the wildflowers; we even entered some of them in an FHWA wildflower photo contest and won a prize for one of our photos taken along I-80."

Be a Tourist

Jay most enjoyed the opportunity to travel across the state to each of the districts and to meet the people who work on the roads. "I got a chance to be like a tourist and to photograph people and places where I normally wouldn't have been. I always enjoyed going out and seeing our maintenance folks working on the roads. I got to take some photos, stop and talk for a few minutes and learn about the work being done. It was a great experience."

During retirement, Jay looks forward to spending more time with his family, including his two granddaughters and a new grandson who was born the end of March. He and his wife, Mary, plan on taking road trips across the state. Photography will remain a passion and pastime, as Jay plans on trying his hand at wildlife photography, including photographing the Sandhill cranes.

Yet one more adventure for Jay Bailey, NDOR's photographer extraordinaire over the past 46 years. ♦

April is Donor Awareness Month

Thousands of Americans are in need of vital organs and tissues. Sadly, 18 people die each day while waiting for a transplant. For many, the chance to live a full life will not come unless more of us consider organ, eye and tissue donation. Each one of us has the potential to save up to

eight lives as an organ donor, give sight to two people as an eye donor, and restore health and mobility to another fifty or more people as a tissue donor. For more information, contact Donate Life Nebraska at 1-800-718-5433 or in Omaha, 402-559-3788 or go to www.DonateLifeNebraska.com.



Toward Zero Deaths

All in the Family

Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.

Please note: Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Births

Congratulations to Renee Chorowicz on the birth of her grandson, Oliver Francis, born March 14. Renee is a Statistical Clerk II in the Traffic Counter Shop Section in Planning & Project Development.

Congratulations to Ed and Wanda Kelley on the birth of their grandson, Alexander Luyang, born April 3. Parents are Megan and Zu Li. Megan was a student intern in Traffic Engineering and Communication. Ed is IT Infrastructure Support Analyst/Sr. in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Erik and Krystal Gonzales on the birth of their first child, Jennings Rae, born March 5. Erik is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 4 in Sutton.

Congratulations to Kent and Laura Bramer on the birth of their son, Lucas Harvey, born February 9. Kent is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 6 in Ansley.

Congratulations to David and Lois Hansen on the birth of their granddaughter, Callie Anne, born March 4. David is a Construction Tech II at District 6 in Broken Bow.

Congratulations to Dan and Angie Waddle on the birth of their granddaughter, Nina Marie, born February 16. Dan is an Engineer VII in Traffic Engineering.

Condolences

Condolences to Kathy Largent on the passing of her husband. Kathy is an IT Supervisor in Business Technology Support.

Condolences to Russ Frickey on the passing of his mother-in-law. Russ is a Hwy. Project Manager at District 5 in Bridgeport.

Condolences to Carla Davis on the loss of her mother. Carla is a Staff Assistant 1 at District 6 in Broken Bow.

Condolences to Ted Swendener on the loss of his brother. Ted is an Auto/Diesel Mechanic at District 6 in Mullen.

Condolences to Dan Lewandowski on the loss of his nephew. Dan is a Project Manager at District 6 in Broken Bow.

Condolences to Tom Manning on the loss of his mother. Tom is a Hwy. ROW Agent II.

Condolences to Roxanne Sullivan on the loss of her father. Roxanne is a Hwy. ROW Local Liaison Coordinator.

Condolences to Cindy and Randy Deckard on the death of his mother. Cindy is a Hwy. Cartographer Sr. in Materials & Research.

Weddings

Fouad Jaber, Assistant State Bridge Engineer, is happy to announce the engagement of his daughter, Nicole Jaber, to Chris Taylor. They will be married June 13th in Lincoln. Nicole is a Pavement Designer and Chris is an Information IT Business Systems Analyst, both in Materials & Research.

This 'n That

Congratulations to Ashley Jaber, who graduated from Southeast Community College on March 20 with a degree in Business Administration. Ashley is the daughter of Fouad Jaber, Assistant State Bridge Engineer.

Congratulations to Austin Alexander on his second State Championship in diving. Austin is a junior at Lincoln Northeast and was named All-American last year, holding the Northeast High School record for the last two years. He is the son of Amy Alexander, State Operations Center Operator in Operations Division.

Becky Brokaw was the starting center for the Lincoln Pius X girls' basketball team that won the Class B State Tournament. Her team finished the 2014-15 season with a record of 22-2, winning its three state tournament games by an average of almost 20 points per game. Becky is the daughter of Dave and Prudence Brokaw. Dave is a Hwy. Materials & Test Manager in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Steve Nelson, on his retirement March 25 after more than 21 years of service. Jim was a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 6 in North Platte.

Congratulations to Ron Morton on his retirement after 44 years of service. Ron was a Hwy. Materials & Tests Technician III in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Bruce Roberts on his retirement after 44 years of service. Bruce was an Appraiser in Right-of-Way.

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *April and May 2015*.

50 Years

Roger McKay, District 1

40 Years

Duane Katen, District 5
William Mainquist, District 3
Gerald Zieg, District 1

30 Years

Harold Colfack, District 8
Rodney Cook, District 1
Cynthia Jelinek, District 4
Kent Lopez, District 8
Kelly McAuliffe, District 3
Keith Oden, Roadway Design
Mary Vanderloop, BTSD
David Whitenack, Mat. & Research

20 Years

Jeffrey Crowell, District 4
John Fangmeier, District 4
Katherine Fread, M&R
James Higel, District 4
Donna Hosick, Traffic
Alan Killinger, District 4
Linda Mosner, District 8
Matthew Neemann, Traffic
Jason Nichols, District 6
Michael Ondrak, M&R
Kenneth Tuma, District 6

10 Years

Nicolas Burnham, Planning & Proj. Dev.
Jodi Kocher, Roadway Design
Jason Kress, Operations
James Lannigan, District 1
Jason Lehn, District 8
Wayne Witt, District 7

30 Years

(omitted from February/March 2015)
Kevin Edwards, District 6
Charles Jasa, District 1
Martin Rodriguez, District 4

NDOR Events Calendar

— April —

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
www.nsc.org/learn/NSC-Initiatives/Pages/distracted-driving-awareness-month.aspx

Donor Awareness Month
www.DonateLifeNebraska.com

- 1 – 30 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
www.nebraskatransportation.org/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm
- 3 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
 Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Examination 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 6 – 10 Nebraska Public Transit Week**
www.nebraskatransit.com
- 8 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 16 Letting**
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22 Earth Day**
www.earthday.org
- 22 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 24 State Holiday – Arbor Day**
- 27 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
 NDOR Central Headquarters
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

— May —

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles

National Bicycle Safety Awareness Month

National Bike-to-Work Month
www.bikeleague.org/bikemonth

- 1 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
 10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 5 New Employee Orientation Program**
 NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Denice Sears @ 402-479-3656
- 6 – 20 Open Enrollment**
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

10 – 16 National Transportation Week
www.ndtahq.com/events_national_trans_week.htm

- 13 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 15 Hwy. Commission Meeting**
 8:30 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871
- 15 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 18 – 31 National “Click It or Ticket” Mobilization**
- 21 Letting**
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 25 State Holiday – Memorial Day**
- 27 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

— June —

National Safety Month
www.nsc.org/Pages/JuneisNationalSafetyMonth.aspx

5/29 – 6/9 Nebraska Wildflower Week
www.arboretum.unl.edu/wildflower-week

- 6 National Trails Day**
www.nationaltrailsday.org/
- 10 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 19 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
 9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
 NDOR Central Headquarters
 Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580
- 24 RoadToasters**
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
 Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 25 Letting**
 1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
 Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 26 Hwy. Commission Meeting/
District 8 Program Hearing**
 8:30 a.m., location TBD, Valentine, NE
 Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov. Information for the June/July Roadrunner should be received by May 29, 2015.